

Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology
Board Meeting Teleconference
March 16, 2006

Members John Youngberg, Chairman

Attending: Marty Connell
 Jim Davison
 Mike Dolson
 Larry Hall
 Paul Tuss

Others Dave Desch, Executive Director

Attending: Jane Todd, Program Specialist

I. Call to Order

Chairman Youngberg called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes from 10/26/05 Board Meeting

Chairman Youngberg asked for discussion of the minutes of the previous Board meeting.

Motion: There was no discussion and Marty Connell moved to approve the minutes. Jim Davison seconded the motion. All approved and the motion carried.

III. Discussion of Proposals Submitted 3/1/06 and Schedule for Making Funding Decisions

Chairman Youngberg explained the reason for this meeting is to establish a timeline and locations for the upcoming meetings to make funding decisions for proposals submitted March 1, 2006.

Dave Desch presented the process used in the past consisting of a series of three meetings to discuss and evaluate proposals and make funding decisions. First, a Board meeting is held where the members discuss the projects, and the Board comes to a consensus about the relative value of each proposal. Board members then make decisions about which applicants they want to invite to make presentations. The next meeting is usually a meeting where applicants make presentations to the Board and, at the end of the meeting there is more discussion regarding which proposals may be funded. At the third meeting, funding decisions are made.

Action: After discussion concerning the process and schedules, the Board agreed to the following meeting timeline and tentative locations:

- May 4th and 5th in Helena – In-person meeting to evaluate proposals. Determine which applicants will be asked to make a presentation to the Board.

- May 24th in Bozeman – In-person meeting to hear presentations and discuss which proposals may be funded.
- June 13 – Telephone meeting to make final funding decisions

IV. Program Objective – Revision

The Board discussed a suggested addition to the Program Objective proposed at the October 26, 2005, Board meeting:

“Supporting projects that enhance the state’s research infrastructure”

After some discussion, it was agreed that adding the suggested language would result in a more accurate description of the Program Objective.

Motion: Chairman Youngberg asked for a motion to add this statement to the MBRCT Program Objective. The motion was made by Paul Tuss and seconded by Larry Hall. There was no further discussion, and no one opposed, the motion passed.

V. Outside Expertise for Proposal Review Process

Dave Desch reported on the Board’s request from the October 26, 2005, meeting that he investigate and negotiate the Board’s intent to hire outside experts to assist with the evaluation of certain technical applications. The Board identified Bill Crain at the October meeting as an expert in the biological sciences, and it was agreed that an expert in the area of physics/laser/optics was also needed. Dave talked to Bill Crain and Ralph Hutcheson (for expertise in laser/optics) and both indicated interest in assisting the Board. However, Tony Preite, Director of the Department of Commerce, expressed concerns regarding potential problems with hiring either of these two persons at this time and asked that the Board not proceed. Dave assured Mr. Preite that he would inform the Board of Mr. Preite’s concerns.

The Board decided that it would not pursue the use of outside expertise in the review process at this time.

VI. Public Comment

Chairman Youngberg asked for public comment and received no response.

VII. Adjourn

Chairman Youngberg adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Youngberg, Chairman